

Wicked Cool Education from NarwhalEdu



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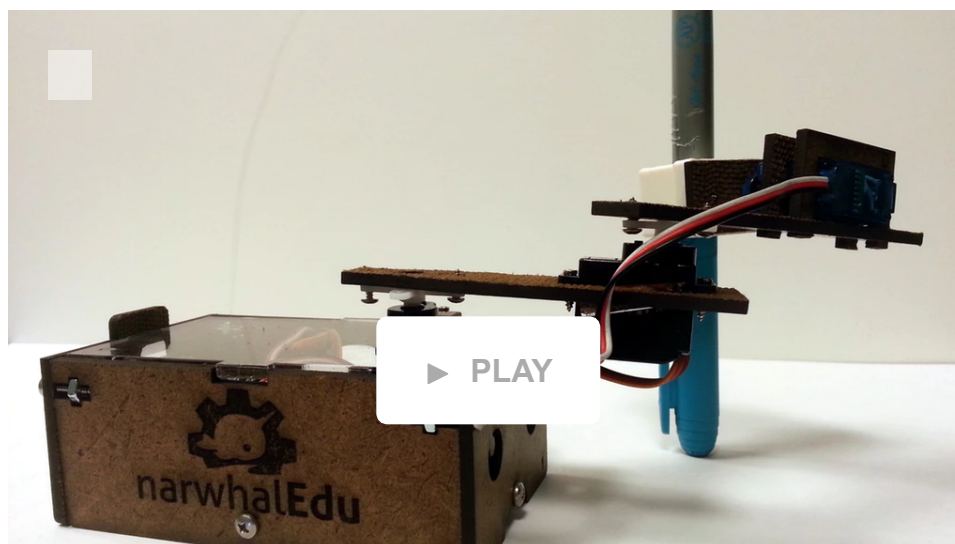
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NarwhalEdu wants to bring 'wicked cool' open online engineering classes to high school students. Open online courses are nothing new, but NarwhalEdu wants to include an open hardware kit along with the course. Everyone taking the course can design and build a set of robots as they learn new concepts.

- A drawing robot arm to learn about kinematics, battery calculations, etc.
- A quadcopter to learn about controls.
- Three small swarmbots to learn about swarm behavior.

After the course, the student keeps the kit and can go on to build whatever they like with it. The kit includes three servos, one Arduino Nano I/O shield, one microcontroller, a power supply, a couple of potentiometers, laser cut enclosure parts, a 3D printed pen-holder and Sharpie pen to fit it, and plenty of fasteners.



Nancy Ouyang, CEO of NarwhalEdu presented at MAKE's Hardware Innovation Workshop in New York. (Click to see her presentation.)

NarwhalEdu is more than half-way through **its Kickstarter campaign** right now. It's a great project to back if you care about making engineering fun and accessible. Even pledging at the lowest level will help raise their popularity on the Kickstarter page so that more people will find them.



By Andrew Terranova

December 4, 2013, 9:30 am PST

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Weekend Watch: Brilliance is Beautiful on Beauty and the Bolt



You don't have to watch episodes of **Beauty and the Bolt** on *YouTube* for very long before you clearly feel the enthusiasm for the joys of making that young co-creators Xyla and Andrew bring to their video education project. Engineering students Xyla Foxlin, studying robotics, and Andrew Dupuis, studying bio-engineering, are on a mission to bring the good word of the maker movement and its positive potential to as wide an audience as possible.

One of the great things about the maker movement is the diversity of the domains of making that it can encompass, from electronics and desktop fabrication to traditional shopcraft to crafting and home improvement. It's a big tent with a lot of different skill sets represented. But the size of that tent can be intimidating to newcomers and those who don't consider themselves traditional "geeks." Xyla and Andrew are determined to teach as many people as possible, especially young people and those from different walks of life, many of the basic skills needed to be competent makers capable of realizing whatever types of projects one desires. They're attempting to create a fun, can-do, on-demand attitude toward making that they hope will become infectious. We hope they stick with it.

So far, in their "Zero to Hero" series, Xyla and Andrew have done video intros to electronics, soldering, measuring, using drills and saws, programming Arduino, and other basic skills. They also post project videos for such things as laser-cutting snowflakes, a glowing rose nightlight, and a back-lit constellation light board.

By Gareth Branwyn

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19 hours ago

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